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Transcriber's Office

May 6, 1999

LB 176

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Okay. Senator Hilgert, AM1686 changed some of the terminology in LB 176. And, if I'm reading right on page 2, it says "personal watercraft shall mean a class of", now it says "motorboat" as opposed to inboard vessel, "less than 16 feet in length which uses an internal combustion engine powering a jet pump as its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the watercraft". Is this still specifically limited to a jet ski?

SENATOR HILGERT: No.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: If you carry that on over then to page 3, Section 6, "A person shall operate" and now, instead of personal watercraft, we will have "motorboat on the waters of this state at a no-wake speed of 5 miles per hour or less when it is within 30 yards of (a) dock, (b) boat ramp, person swimming, bridge, structure" and so on. When we passed this amendment did we now, say if you had a situation where you had a small, private lake and people were able to water ski around that, and in some instances it might be below 30 yards, even...and as I understand it is in rules and regs, but by putting this in statute are we eliminating use of a motorboat for such as...anything above a 5 mile per hour use of that boat within those limitations?

SENATOR HILGERT: Senator Peterson, you're right, yes, to first answer your question. So I'm not trying to be evasive, but the Game and Parks Commission has never done this. It's currently in rules and regs. I understand your concern and understand also that, you know, you weren't on the floor when we did this. This was an attempt...it was drafted this morning, given to me by counsel of Natural Resources as well as Game and Parks, to try to satisfy some of the concerns that they felt that members brought up. If you wish to take this out at this time, Senator, I know you did talk to Game and Parks, and so you did have an exchange with them, I'd support your motion to reconsider and let's move on.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Okay. And thank you, Senator Hilgert. I...I really appreciate that you're willing to work on this. I